



Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

Release Highlights: December 29, 2006

MONTANA

Average Wage Per Job, 2005

<http://ceic.mt.gov/bea.asp> (for detailed Excel files)

If it seems that there's more money in your pocket, it may be true. Between 2004 and 2005, Montanans' average wage per job rose 5% (to \$29,139), outstripping the national average of 3.5%. Only Wyoming's rate of 5.9% and Louisiana's 5.2% rank above Montana's according to data released December 29th, 2006 from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

The 21st Century has also been good to Montana residents' wallets. Average wages rose 21% between 2000 and 2005 in the Treasure State, compared to 15.6% in the nation. This increase ranked Montana 8th in the nation.

Increasing prices in certain minerals appear to be behind the wage increases in Sweet Grass and Carter counties. Palladium and platinum lies under the ground in Sweet Grass County. Salaries surged ahead 92% between 2000 and 2005, the largest increase of all counties. Platinum prices rose nearly 70% between 2001 and 2005. Meanwhile, Carter County sits atop the only bentonite mine in the state. Wages rose 40%, the fifth highest in the state between 2000 and 2005.

| 2000-2005 | | |
|-------------|---------|------|
| County | Percent | Rank |
| Sweet Grass | 92% | 1 |
| Fallon | 51% | 2 |
| Prairie | 45% | 3 |
| Madison | 40% | 4 |
| Carter | 39% | 5 |

Energy development also seems to be driving wages up in some of Montana's counties. Fallon County residents have realized a 51% increase in their wages between 2000 and 2005 and 16% between 2004 and 2005. Oil rigs are springing up everywhere in the county as oil prices skyrocketed in 2005. The county saw oil production increase over 60% between 2000 and 2005.

Wages in Madison County increased 23% between 2004 and 2005, the largest increase in the state. New housing developments, such as Moonlight Basin and the Yellowstone Club in the Big Sky area, are being built in the county, increasing real estate sales.

| 2004-2005 | | |
|--------------|---------|------|
| County | Percent | Rank |
| Madison | 23% | 1 |
| Prairie | 19% | 2 |
| Fallon | 16% | 3 |
| Treasure | 14% | 4 |
| Judith Basin | 13% | 5 |

New estimates for 2005 and revised estimates for 2003-2004, based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), include wage and salary disbursements, wage and salary employment, and average wage per job. All three series are presented on a place-of-work basis for states, counties, and metropolitan and micropolitan areas. The employment measure is of the number of jobs, full-time plus part-time.

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